

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Thank you, everyone, who could join us at COL: *Innovation in Governance and Leadership*. It was great to connect with you. We also appreciated hearing your experience of the changing non-profit landscape and how that has impacted your approach to leadership and governance.

The changes happening in and around the non-profit sector are significant and fast-moving. They raise questions about how organizations need to adapt to remain sustainable and reflect the equity and diversity of the communities they serve. The conference presentations offered keen insight and provoked discussions that will support us as we lead and develop our organizations.

If you'd like to revisit the topics, or if you didn't make it to the conference, we've placed links to some of the presentations and resources in the Member's area of the Family Service Canada website. Visit <https://familyservicecanada.org/members/member-login/> to log in. After logging in, you'll find the resources linked from the Member's landing page, <https://familyservicecanada.org/members/>.

We've also had some changes in leadership within our membership. I'd like to welcome three new Executive Directors to the network, Sharon Amirault from Family Service Saint John New Brunswick, Nicola Memo from Family Service Thames Valley London Ontario - Frank Pyka is transitioning to retirement and Paula Telfer from Carya in Calgary Alberta.

At our AGM we brought on 2 new board members, Maria Howard, CEO of Family Services of Greater Vancouver and Sharon Amirault, Executive Director of Family Service Saint John. Our slate of directors is as follows:

Pauline Smale (Chair, Secretary) CEO with Family Centre of Northern Alberta,
Nancy MacDonald (Vice Chair) Executive Director with Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia,
Shellie Pociuk (Treasurer) CEO with Family Service Regina,
Sharon Amirault, Executive Director of Family Service Saint John,
Maria Howard, CEO of Family Services of Greater Vancouver,
Deirdre Speers Executive Director Family Services Ottawa
Trish St. Onge Executive Director CFS Saskatoon and
Joyce Zuk Executive Director with Family Services Windsor

CEO Spotlight: Paula Telfer

Paula comes to carya from Easter Seals Alberta, where she has been CEO since 2019. Prior to her time at Easter Seals, she was Manager of Program Services at the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre and Executive Director of LINKages Society of Alberta. Much of her professional career has been spent at McMan Youth, Family, and Community Services as Manager of Family and Community Programs.

Paula is a Registered Professional Counsellor and was the former Chair of the Early Childhood Coalition Committee of Alberta. She is currently working on her second certification program through the Banff Centre Leadership Programs, after recently completing their Strategic Directions program. She brings to carya her long history of working with families and the most vulnerable in our communities and a deep desire to return to an organization that provides a wide spectrum of services for families and individuals.



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Family and School Together Program

We have recently received the final report from the Community University Partnership (CUP) on the F&ST program. Our goal was to use research to develop a national parenting program that is evidence based, user friendly and cost effective for FSC members. As part of their work they completed a literature review, an overview of other national parenting programs and a comprehensive review of F&ST in the Canadian context. The report of findings and recommendations is now complete. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Gauge interest from FSC agency staff to form a program advisory committee. This committee, comprised of staff on the front lines of service delivery, could prove useful for informing programming at a national level and strengthening FSC's program offerings (including the development of a F&ST-inspired program).
2. Collaborate across agencies currently delivering F&ST to: (1) identify the modifications to F&ST that staff are already using; (2) share information about each agencies' efforts to update measurement tools; and (3) consider unifying approaches to F&ST program delivery and monitoring. Whether or not FSC chooses to develop a new program or update F&ST, collaborating across agencies can improve the strength and quality of programming delivered across Canada. This collaborative effort may be a task best undertaken by the program advisory committee suggested previously.
3. Organize and host an annual community of learning event specific to family programming. Frontline staff from agencies across Canada can be extended an opportunity to meet annually to have largescale conversations about the future of programming, which will strengthen connections between agencies and add value to what FSC membership has to offer.
4. Develop an online hub for housing program materials. If FSC proceeds with developing a new program or updating F&ST, it is recommended that the FSC Board invest in developing and maintaining an online hub for housing training materials and libraries of widely accessible resources.
5. Explore alternate packaged programs with similar goals. Two comparable programs were identified in a scan of the literature. Although stakeholders felt constrained by pre-packaged programs, which can also be costly, reviewing the features of each program may be informative when developing evidence-informed programming nation-wide.

Thank you to everyone who participated on the working committee and those that supported families and staff to participate in the interviews.